GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1216
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
DISPLACED KASHMIRI FAMILIES
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced families of Jammu and Kashmir which have returned to their homes so far and the percentage it constitutes of the total number of displaced families; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to create a safer environment for the return of the remaining displaced kashmiris?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERS(PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK)

(a): According to available reports, no Kashmiri migrant family has returned to their homes so far.

(b): In order to enable safe and honourable return of migrants to their native places in the Valley, the then State Government of J&K finalized an Action Plan involving a total amount of Rs.2589.73 crores. The Action Plan is to be implemented in phases, which envisages return and rehabilitation of migrant families in areas where clusters of migrant houses are available and in villages/mohallas in the Kashmir Valley Districts with sizeable Kashmiri Pandit population and where security is already being provided. To begin with, 166 houses forming 15 clusters have been identified in Srinagar and Badgam Districts, which are considered safe for return of the owners of these houses. The list of these clusters was published in the newspapers and steps were taken to identify the families and find their willingness to return to their homes. About 50 families who were registered with the Relief organization, Jammu were contacted personally to give their consent for return to the Valley on the basis of the package announced by the Government. Interaction meetings with some of these families were also held but as reported by State Government, only two families (not belonging to the particular area) have agreed to return to the Valley so far.

The New State Government has indicated that they have identified the shrines in Mattan and Kheer Bhavani where the Kashmiri migrants displaced from these places could be settled temporarily by developing two model clusters containing temporary shelters for Kashmiri migrants, till such time they can repair their existing residential houses.